

Notice of Opportunity to Comment

Mission Restoration Project Preliminary
Environmental Assessment
and Forest Plan Amendments

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
Methow Valley Ranger District

Responsible Official Michael Williams, Forest Supervisor for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, announces the availability of the Mission Restoration Project Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for public review and comment. The project is located on the Methow Valley Ranger District east and south of Twisp, Washington in T32N, T33N, R19E, R20E, and R21E, Willamette Meridian. The project area covers about 50,200 acres. Proposed activities include approximately 1,952 acres of commercial thinning treatments; 8,304 acres of noncommercial thinning treatments; 10,968 acres of prescribed fire treatments; 468 acres of soil restoration treatments; 23 culvert replacements; 8.2 miles of coarse woody debris enhancement; beaver habitat enhancement at six sites; rock armoring at 33 sites; creating hardened fords at four stream crossings; closing, opening, and decommissioning roads; repairing a bridge, and building temporary roads. Treatments are proposed within Riparian Reserves and an Inventoried Roadless Area. The proposal includes some project-specific temporary amendments to Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines related to recreation, soils, and wildlife disturbance to acknowledge existing conditions that exceed standards or to allow short-term negative impacts that would make the ecosystem more resilient in the long-term. The short-term negative impacts are mitigated to the extent possible, but may still exceed thresholds.

All comments must meet the requirements at 36 CFR Part 218.25. Comments on the project must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the date of publication of this legal notice in The Wenatchee World newspaper. Comments should be addressed to the Responsible Official, Michael Williams, Forest Supervisor, c/o Meg Trebon, Methow Valley Ranger District, 24 W Chewuch Road, Winthrop, WA 98862; Phone: (509) 996-4000; FAX: (509) 996-2208; e-mail address: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=49201>. Those submitting hand-delivered comments may do so during regular office hours, 8:00AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday, except legal holidays. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure their comments are received in a timely manner. For electronically mailed comments, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of the comments, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means. Electronic comments must be submitted only to the web address shown above.

Only those who submit timely and specific comments regarding the proposed project or activity during a public comment period established by the Responsible Official, such as this one, are eligible to file an objection. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity comments must either sign the comments or verify their identity upon request.

Background information and the draft Environmental Assessment for this project are available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=49201>. Anyone wishing to obtain additional information on the project should contact Meg Trebon at (509) 996-4032.

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